

Attorney Docket No.: J7175(C)
Serial No.: 10/551,823
Filed: July 10, 2006
Confirmation No.: 3927

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (previously presented): Process according to claim 14, wherein the thickener is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenin, gum tragacanth, xanthan gum, guar gum, alginates and bentonite.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): Process according to claim 14, wherein the thickening mixture also comprises a surfactant.

Claim 5 (previously presented): Process according to claim 14, wherein the thickening mixture also comprises a fluoride ion source.

Claim 6 (previously presented): Process according to claim 14, wherein the thickening mixture comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the oral composition.

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Claim 7 (previously presented): Process according to claim 14, wherein the slurry comprises an aqueous suspension of calcium carbonate.

Claim 8 (previously presented): Process according to claim 14, wherein the slurry further comprises a humectant.

Claim 9 (previously presented): Process according to claim 14, wherein the slurry further comprises a thickening silica.

Claims 10 and 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): Process according to claim 14, wherein the slurry is prepared by adding calcium carbonate to a water/humectant mixture.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A continuous process for the manufacture of an oral composition, comprising:

- (a) preparing an aqueous suspension comprising calcium carbonate, a fluoride ion source and a surfactant;
- (b) optionally adding further ingredients to said suspension;
- (c) optionally de-aerating of said suspension;
- (d) adding a thickening mixture under vacuum to said suspension;
- (e) mixing together said suspension and thickening mixture;
- (f) allowing the mixed suspension and thickening mixture to stand for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes or for long enough for the thickening mixture to hydrate and become a resultant oral composition;

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- (g) mixing the resultant oral composition from step (f) for from 30 seconds to 10 minutes.

Claim 14 (currently amended): Process for the manufacture of an oral composition, the process comprising:

- (a) preparing a slurry comprising:
 - (i) from 5 to 60% of calcium carbonate as abrasive by weight of the composition;
 - (ii) from 0.05 to 3% of a surfactant by weight of the slurry;
 - (iii) a fluoride ion source in an anti-carries effective amount;
- (b) mixing the slurry;
- (c) preparing a thickening mixture, the mixture comprising:
 - (i) from 0.1 to 5% of a thickener by weight of the composition selected from the group consisting of natural gums, synthetic gums, natural clays and synthetic inorganic clays;
- (d) feeding the thickening mixture under vacuum into the slurry by way of a coaxial injector to form the oral composition.

Claim 15 (canceled)